International Seabed Authority ISBA/24/LTC/5

Legal and Technical Commission

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Agenda item 5
Status of the implementation of training programmes under plans of work for exploration and the allocation of training opportunities

Selection of candidates for training programmes under plans of work for exploration

Recommendation by the Legal and Technical Commission

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to their contracts for exploration with the International Seabed Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany (BGR), the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer), the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA), Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR) and the Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM) submitted training proposals to the secretariat.

2. At its meeting held on 12 March 2018, the Legal and Technical Commission appointed a subgroup to evaluate and recommend candidates for training opportunities. It had been agreed that the subgroup would work with the secretariat between sessions to identify appropriate candidates for training opportunities (see ISBA/20/LTC/13, paras. 11–13). In selecting candidates, the subgroup considered the relevant regulations and the principles, policies and procedures applicable to the training programmes, in particular the recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programmes under plans of work for exploration (ISBA/19/LTC/14).

3. Owing to the scheduling demands of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, BGR, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and Ifremer, the subgroup appointed during the previous session was required to select candidates prior to the March 2018 meetings of the Commission. To accommodate the contractors' requests, the subgroup made intersessional selections by means of email communication. The

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other selections, however, were made according to the normal selection process during part I of the 2018 session.

4. Candidates were selected on the basis of the qualification criteria provided by each contractor for their respective programmes, in particular language proficiency, educational background, work experience, potential career development, reasons for seeking training, expected benefit to the candidates' countries of origin and other merits specified in the application material. In addition to those considerations, due regard was paid to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, in particular the interests and needs of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged developing States, as requested by the Council in a decision adopted at the twentieth session (see ISBA/20/C/31, para. 6).

II. Intersessional selection of candidates

5. On 19 June 2017, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation submitted two revised training proposals to the Authority. The first proposal was submitted pursuant to the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts signed with the Authority on 10 March 2015. In its proposal, the Ministry offered a theoretical and at-sea training opportunity for three candidates. The first part of the training programme would be held at Saint Petersburg State University for some 15 days, while the second part, the scientific cruise, was to be carried out aboard the research vessel *Gelendzhik* in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone of the Pacific Ocean for some 60 days starting in October 2017.

6. The second proposal was submitted in accordance with the contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides signed with the Authority on 29 October 2012. In the proposal, the Ministry offered two training places for candidates to participate in a two-week theoretical training programme at Saint Petersburg State University and an at-sea training opportunity aboard the research vessel *Professor Lagachev* in the area of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The six-week cruise was scheduled for November 2017 to January 2018 and would focus on marine geological research.

7. On 24 July, BGR submitted a training proposal in accordance with its exploration contract for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 19 July 2006. It offered two at-sea training places for candidates from developing States aboard the research vessel *Sonne* in the north-east Pacific Ocean. The cruise, which is planned for approximately 30 working days in April or May 2018, will be followed by a four-week post-cruise training course in Hannover, Germany. Trainees will participate in the collection and processing of manganese nodules and sediment samples from a deep-sea environment for resource evaluation as well as environmental and biodiversity studies.

8. On 12 December, a training proposal was received from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea under its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules with the Authority. The Ministry offered two at-sea training places for candidates from developing States aboard the research vessel *Kilo Moana*, operated by the University of Hawaii. The focus of the cruise, organized by the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, is on geological and biological sampling and the collection of environmental baseline data in the Republic of Korea contract area for polymetallic nodules over some 30 days between March and April 2018.

9. On 8 December, Ifremer submitted a training proposal to the Authority, offering two internships for candidates from developing States to acquire practical knowledge of deep-ocean environmental studies at the Ifremer deep-sea ecosystems studies laboratory in Brest, France. The proposal was as follows:

(a) The first of the two internships was submitted pursuant to the contract for the exploration for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 20 June 2001. One candidate will participate in a programme from mid-May to mid-July 2018 to develop skills in morphological and molecular taxonomy, including the morphological identification and DNA barcoding of specimens belonging to the class Polychaeta, using box core samples from the Fracture Zone;

(b) The second internship, which is scheduled for May to June 2018, was submitted in accordance with the contract for the exploration for polymetallic sulphides signed with the Authority on 18 November 2014. This internship will focus on the study of the reproductive characteristics of a vent-endemic species, the shrimp *Rimicaris exoculata* from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

10. The training opportunities were sent to the members of the Authority for the purpose of nominating candidates. They were also advertised on the website of the Authority and through social media platforms. In addition, the roster of alternate candidates, as outlined in paragraphs 11 to 13 of document ISBA/20/LTC/13, was activated to facilitate expedited requests for candidates from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and Ifremer. The following applications were evaluated:

(a) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment training programme on cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts: 19 applications (10 from the African Group, 4 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 4 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1 from an observer State; 6 women and 13 men);

(b) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment training programme on polymetallic sulphides: 26 applications (15 from the African Group, 6 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 5 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 9 women and 17 men);

(c) BGR training programme: 60 applications (38 from the African Group, 13 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 8 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1 from an observer State; 17 women and 43 men);

(d) Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries training programme: 14 applications (6 from the African Group, 4 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 4 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 6 women and 8 men);

(e) Ifremer internships: 17 applications (7 from the African Group, 7 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 3 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 7 women and 10 men).

11. On the basis of the selection criteria and recommendations approved by the Commission, and taking into account consultations between the contractors and the secretariat, the subgroup agreed to recommend to the Commission the following first-ranked candidates and alternates for the above-mentioned training programmes:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment training programme on cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Nuengruethai Phornlam	Female	Thailand
2. Md. Sheik	Male	Bangladesh
3. Moses O. Adeoye	Male	Nigeria
Alternates		
1. Cheyne Howell	Male	Jamaica
2. Crisostomo Masangkay	Male	Philippines
3. Ahmed Badr el-Din	Male	Egypt

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment training programme on polymetallic sulphides

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Natasha Stanton	Female	Brazil
2. Joseph Aisakbokhae	Male	Nigeria
Alternates		
1. Ismail Folorunso	Male	Nigeria
2. Albertine Bermile	Male	Ghana

BGR training programme

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Abner Nghoongoloka	Male	Namibia
2. Christine Mae Edullantes	Female	Philippines
Alternates		
1. Cheyne Howell	Male	Jamaica
2. Safiyya Sedick	Female	South Africa

Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries training programme

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Isabel Garcia Arevalo	Female	Ecuador
2. Safiyya Sedick	Female	South Africa
Alternates		
1. Ahmed Mohamed Gad	Male	Egypt
2. Hai Trinh Le	Male	Viet Nam
3. Karina Melias Astriandhita	Female	Indonesia

Ifremer internship on polymetallic nodules

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidate		
1. Clóvis Motta Neto	Male	Brazil
Alternates		
1. Gavin Campbell	Male	Jamaica
2. Mohamad Abu Hassan	Male	Malaysia

Ifremer internship on polymetallic sulphides

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidate		
1. Morzina Leela	Female	Bangladesh
Alternates		
1. Abdul-Rahman Dirisu	Male	Nigeria
2. Stella Ukaono	Female	Nigeria

III. Selection of candidates in March 2018

12. During its meetings held from 12 to 23 March 2018, the Commission met to advise the Secretary-General on the selection of candidates for training programmes proposed by GSR, COMRA, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and IOM.

13. On 9 November 2017, GSR submitted a training proposal in accordance with its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 14 January 2013. It offered five training opportunities, including one fellowship for a master's degree programme in marine and lacustrine science and management, two places at a 2018 seminar on dredging technologies at the Antwerp Port Training

Centre and two places at the 2018 session of the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy.

14. On 12 December, COMRA submitted a training proposal in accordance with its contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts signed with the Authority on 29 April 2014. It offered two training positions in an engineering programme in either Beijing or Changsha, China.

15. On 12 December, a training proposal was received from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, under its contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides with the Authority. The Ministry offered two at-sea training places aboard the research vessel *Isabu*. The cruise, organized by the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, will focus on geological and biological sampling and the collection of environmental baseline data at the Central Indian Ridge. It is planned for approximately 40 days between May and June 2018.

16. On 18 December, IOM submitted a training proposal in accordance with its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 29 March 2001. It offered two training places for a comprehensive six-week multidisciplinary training programme in the field of polymetallic nodules, project management (including exploration, value chain and economic factors), environmental research and metallurgical processing.

17. The training proposals were advertised on the website of the Authority and through social media platforms. The subgroup evaluated the following applications during part I of the Commission's session:

(a) GSR Rhodes Academy: 27 candidates (4 from the African Group, 6 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 14 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 3 from observer States; 12 women and 15 men);

(b) GSR dredging seminar: 13 candidates (6 from the African Group, 4 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 3 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 1 woman and 12 men);

(c) GSR master's fellowship: 3 candidates (1 from the African Group, 1 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 1 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; all men);

(d) COMRA training programme: 10 candidates (7 from the African Group, 2 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1 from the Western European and Others Group; 4 women and 6 men);

(e) Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries training programme: 13 candidates (5 from the African Group, 5 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 3 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 2 women and 11 men);

(f) IOM training programme: 34 candidates (19 from the African Group, 9 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 2 from the Western European and Others Group, 3 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1 from an observer State; 10 women and 24 men).

18. The final recommendations are as follows:

GSR Rhodes Academy

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Rochelle Lee	Female	Jamaica
2. Thiha Thiha Thwin	Male	Myanmar
Alternates		
1. Cesar Peniche Luna	Male	Mexico
2. Khin Thandar Oo	Female	Myanmar
3. Victor Ventura	Male	Brazil
4. Deniece Aiken	Female	Jamaica
5. Neil Silva	Male	Philippines

GSR dredging seminar

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Danellia Aitcheson	Female	Jamaica
2. Elle Pathirathnalage Thilakarathne	Male	Sri Lanka
Alternates		
1. Wai Phyo Hein	Male	Myanmar
2. Haider Emon	Male	Bangladesh

COMRA training programme

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Karla Tituana Baren	Female	Ecuador
2. Koffi Vossah Messan	Male	Cameroon
Alternates		
1. Adebayo Adebusuyi Longe	Male	Nigeria
2. Chinedu Okweze	Male	Nigeria

Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries training programme

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Acer Jian T. Figueroa	Male	Philippines
2. Jocelyne Mpemba Kazadi	Female	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Alternates		
1. Essam El-Shorbagi	Male	Egypt
2. Karina Melias Astriandhita	Female	Indonesia

IOM training programme

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Karina Melias Astriandhita	Female	Indonesia
2. Mohamed S.G. Awad	Male	Egypt
Alternates		
1. Shahtaj Karim	Female	Bangladesh
2. Thiwaporn Phonsit	Female	Thailand
3. Bryan M. Cababan	Male	Philippines

19. After considering the very small number of applicants (three), the subgroup recommended that the GSR master's fellowship be re-advertised and that the secretariat make a concerted effort to attract enough qualified applicants.

20. The Commission accepted the recommendations of the subgroup and its list of preferred candidates for the training programmes.

IV. Other recommendations

21. During the selection of candidates, the subgroup made the following observations and recommendations:

(a) The secretariat needed to find more innovative methods to advertise training opportunities to ensure enough applications from qualified candidates;

(b) Several candidates who had previously received training had reapplied for training opportunities. To ensure that as wide a cross section of candidates from developing States benefited from those opportunities, such applicants should not be considered for a training opportunity similar to the type that they had received within the past five years. They could, however, apply for another type of training within five years of receiving another training opportunity. That fact would have to be noted.

22. The Commission expressed gratitude to the secretariat for appointing a dedicated training coordinator, as that had improved the handling of applications and facilitated the selection of candidates.

23. The Commission accepted the recommendations made by the subgroup.